

★ news release

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VOLUME OF UNITED STATES FISH CATCH DOWN, BUT VALUE INCREASES

The most important increase in 1964 came in the estimated catch of salmon in Alaska, which was about 312 million pounds--an increase of 89 million pounds, or 40 percent more than in 1963. In Alaska, the catch of all salmon species

increased, with reds, pinks, and chums accounting for most of the gain. The salmon catch in the State of Washington, however, declined nearly 34 million pounds, mostly in pink salmon.

This decrease is considered normal because few pink salmon enter Puget Sound waters in even-numbered years. Pink salmon there have a 2-year reproduction cycle, and thus far all attempts to change this cycle have failed. There was also a decline of several million pounds in the red salmon catch in Puget Sound waters.

Other species which showed an increase in the 1964 catch include Alaskan king crab and Alaskan herring as well as haddock taken from New England waters.

The Maine herring fishery suffered the largest decline in the food fish catch. Only 60 million pounds were taken in 1964--a decline of 92 million pounds (61 percent) compared with the 1963 total. Shrimp landings along the South Atlantic and Gulf States in 1964 were down 26 million pounds (11 percent) from 1963.

The United States continued to rank fifth among leading fishing countries of the world, trailing Peru, Japan, Communist China, and the Soviet Union in that order. Peru replaced Japan as world leader in total landings in 1962 with a spectacular increase in the catch of industrial fish used primarily for fishmeal. Peru's total fish landings in 1964 are more than 200 times what they were in 1947, and more than 47 times the landings ten years ago.

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